

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

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Claim 1. (Original) Tobacco leaf in a condition of having been contacted with a wash solution comprising an aqueous solution of a carbonate or bicarbonate salt and in a further condition of having been subsequently air cured.

Claim 2. (Original) The leaf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein further cured condition is established within a time period of four weeks or less.

Claim 3. (Original) The leaf as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said leaf exhibits a reduced amount of tobacco-specific nitrosamines as compared to an air cured tobacco leaf of a same type but without said contacted condition and said further condition.

Claim 4. (Original) The leaf as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said cured condition is established within three weeks.

Claim 5. (Original) The leaf as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said leaf is destemmed.

Claim 6. (Original) The leaf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bicarbonate salt comprises one or more of sodium bicarbonate, ammonium bicarbonate or potassium

bicarbonate or the carbonate salt comprises one or more of sodium carbonate, ammonium carbonate or potassium carbonate.

Claims 7-27. (Allowed)

Claims 28-54. (Withdrawn)

Claim 55. (New) An uncured tobacco leaf in a condition of having been contacted with a wash solution comprising an aqueous solution of a carbonate or bicarbonate salt.